DOCTOR EXPLAINS SIRHAN REMARKS

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Links Them To Psychosis, Not Legal Strategy

Los Angeles, March 26 (AP)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan tried to tailor his account of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's assassination with an eye toward self-preservation, the state suggested today. A defense witness disagreed.

The deputy district attorney, David N. Fitts—saying that Mr. Sirhan at first denied testimony by prosecution witnesses that indicated the slaying was premeditated—asked whether this did not point to "some position on his part that indicates self-preservation?"

The defense's star psychiatric witness, Dr. Bernard Diamond, replied "No."

Dr. Diamond is a professor of law, psychiatry and criminology at the Universityof California. He has described the defendant as a computerized killer who subconsciously programmed himself for the assassination because he considered Senator Kennedy pro-Israel.

Firing Practice Cited

Mr. Fitts led up to his questioning by citing the defendant's presence at the Ambassador Hotel assassination scene two days before the June 5, 1968, shooting.

Also, Mr. Fitts said, the defendant practiced rapid firing at a target range a few hours before he put three bullets into Senator Kennedy, who was campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In each case, Mr. Fitts said, the defendant tried to get around what might be construed as premeditation by initially denying the testimony of state witnesses.

"Sirhan has an enormous schizophrenic preoccupation with details," Dr. Diamond said. "Sirhan seizes on individual items in his behavior, not of others, and makes a great to do about his being right and others wrong. I can't accept this as part of his legal strategy."